

Troopers Were Slain With Their Own Gun

By LYLE SUMERIX
South Berrien Bureau
NEW BUFFALO — The two state troopers slain near here Dec. 31 apparently were shot down with one of their own service revolvers.

Lt. Neil Bement, com-

mander of the New Buffalo state police post where the men were stationed, said today that preliminary reports from the state crime lab are that both officers were shot with one of the service revolvers, and that no other

weapon was used. He said the other service revolver had not been fired.

Police originally had indicated that two weapons of different caliber were used in the slayings. State troopers are armed with revolvers

firing a calibre .38 Special ammunition.

Troopers Gary Rampy, 27, of Grand Beach and Trooper Charles Stark, 32, of Lakeside were shot to death early Friday morning after an apparent routine traffic stop.

Bement said the shots were fired from Trooper Stark's revolver.

One of the two suspected assailants, Johnnie William Croxton, 26, was killed by another trooper minutes later. Police said he was armed with a .25 caliber pistol and the two service revolvers.

Trooper Rampy reportedly had been shot once and Trooper Stark three times.

Lt. Bement said a fourth weapon found in possession of the second suspect, a woman, now being held in the Berrien county jail, was a starter pistol capable of firing only blank cartridges.

Mrs. Dorothy Pearl Broz 39, of Detroit is being held without bond after demanding examination on two counts of first degree murder. She was arraigned in Fifth District court Saturday.

The commander also said police had been unable to find any registration on the .25 caliber weapon in Michigan or Indiana. He added that nothing official had been established to tie the suspects to an armed robbery in the Detroit area earlier the night of the slaying.

The body of Croxton, 26, of Parsons, Tenn., was returned to Parsons for burial tomorrow. Services will be from Parsons funeral home with burial in Parsons cemetery.

Croxton's mother, Mrs. George Croxton of Parsons, described her son as a good boy. "I can't understand how he could have gotten involved in a thing like this."

Mrs. Croxton said her son was a member of the Bible Presbyterian church in Nashville, Tenn. While serving a sentence in the penitentiary at Nashville, she founded the Seven Steps church in March 1970 and had been ministering to the inmates, Mrs. Croxton said.

At time of the shooting, Croxton was wanted by Tennessee authorities on warrants charging parole violation and passing bad checks, according to state police.

Mrs. Croxton said she and her late husband adopted Croxton when he was 18 months old. He was born in Detroit May 21, 1945, and went to live with the Croxtons at Donaldson, Tenn., until after graduating from Donaldson high school.

The family moved to Parsons, a community of about 2,000 in central Tennessee, and Croxton took employment with (See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

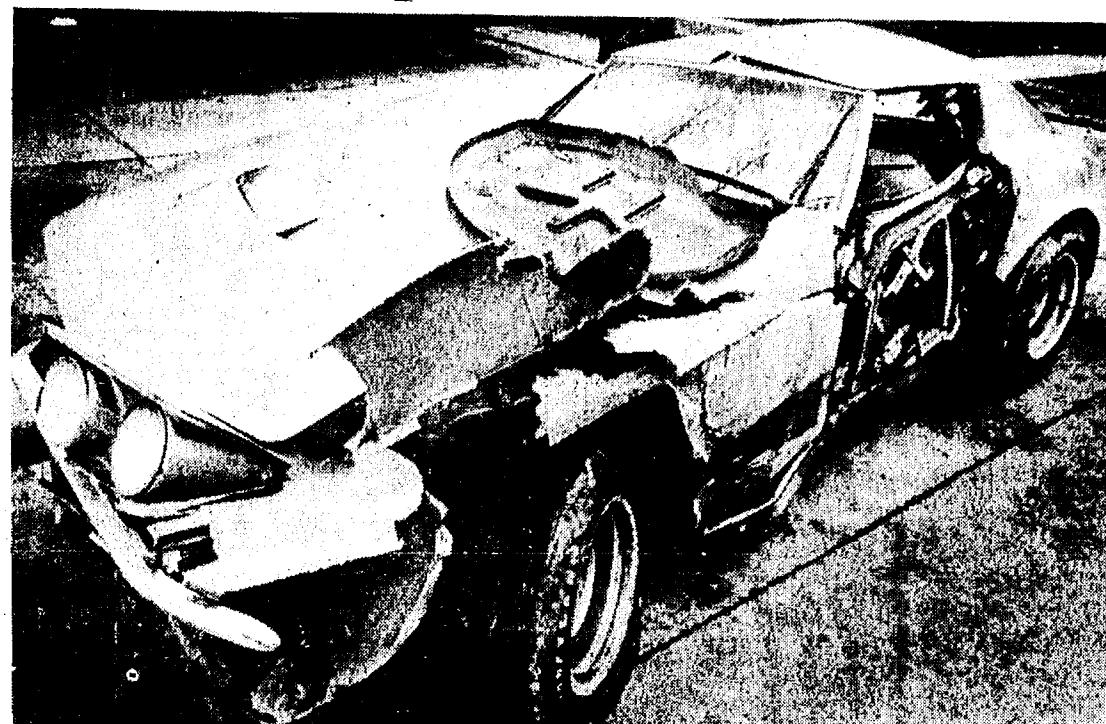


WIDOW'S TEARS: Mrs. Gary Rampy broke into sobs yesterday as she received state flag that had been draped across coffin of her husband who was slain in line of duty at Union Pier Friday. Presentation came at services at cemetery in Albion where Rampy was buried. The Rampys had two children. (Staff photo by Steve McQuown)



GRIEVING FAMILY: Flanked by her two children, Mrs. Charles Stark Jr., sits with bowed head during graveside services for her Michigan state trooper husband, who was slain near Union Pier Friday. At right is the Rev. Charles Stark Sr., father of the trooper. Services were held yesterday at Muskegon. (Tom Renner photo)

Freed POW Smashes Gift Auto; Plates Expired, No Insurance



STAFF SERGEANT JOHN SEXTON'S WRECKED SPORTS CAR

WARREN, Mich. (AP) — John Sexton, the Warren POW who was released by the Viet Cong in October, was driving without insurance or legal license plates Saturday when he smashed up his new Corvette.

The car, a gift from admirers in Denver where he recuperated from his captivity-related injuries and illnesses, was severely damaged in the crash early on New Year's Day.

Sexton and his date were returning from a party when, he said, another car cut in front of him, forcing him to skid into two parked cars and a telephone pole.

It was revealed Monday that Sexton was driving with expired temporary license plates issued by the car dealer in Denver. In addition, he was carrying no insurance of any kind, and will have to use his Army back pay to cover what he estimates as \$5,000 to \$6,000

damages to the three cars.

Sexton said he was waiting to buy plates until he had insurance. And he said he was putting off insurance until after another series of operations in Denver which will take about three months, because he "couldn't see paying those premiums (about \$1,000 a year) when I'm sitting in the hospital, not using the car."

He said he was unaware the temporary plates had expired.

Police said they could not issue a ticket for the plates violations — a misdemeanor — without a complainant or actually witnessing Sexton driving the car. By the time police got to the scene, the car was undrivable.

Neither Sexton nor his girl friend were hurt in the accident.

"It's a helluva way to start a new year," he said.

ADC Recipients To Get A Few Dollars More



READY TO ANNOUNCE: Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, relaxes Monday night in his summer home at Kennebunk Beach, between taping sessions of his message to the nation of his intentions to seek the Democratic nomination for President. (AP Wirephoto)

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan's more than 120,000 families receiving Aid to Dependent Children welfare assistance finally have official assurance of a modest boost in their twice-monthly allotment checks.

And Wayne County authorities have the green light to clamp a 5 per cent tax on Detroit-area hotel accommodations to raise some \$5 million.

Dealers and producers of laundry detergents and cleaners, meanwhile, are on a five-months notice to begin cutting the phosphate levels of their products down to 8.7 per cent by July 1.

Gov. William G. Milliken, in a flurry of bill signing, made all these measures law Monday.

This signature on the welfare measure finished a much delayed and bitterly fought fiscal budget that now totals a record \$2.071 billion.

His office said the welfare bill, representing 24 per cent of all state spending would boost the average ADC grant from \$230 a month to \$240.

Lawmakers delayed until mid-December giving final approval to the measure which covers spending going back to July 1, 1971. Principal sticking point has been House and Senate differences over Aid to Dependent Children.

While the argument was over

millions of dollars, the reference was to pennies — specifically whether the \$2.64 daily ADC allotment should increase nine cents, to \$2.63 as finally agreed, or more.

State welfare statistics released last month showed a total of 126,879 ADC cases for August, last available month, and an overall program involving

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 5)

By BROOKS JACKSON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pay Board was expected to order its first wage rollback today, cutting a 12-per-cent raise for aerospace workers, probably to 8 per cent or less.

But it appeared to be an open question whether the board would honor its own new rule limiting all pay raises in new contracts to no more than 7 per cent, even in special circumstances.

Various sources said all 10

business and public members were determined to vote against the five labor members and order a cut of some amount. Not all of them, however, were reported ready to roll the aerospace raise back to 7 per cent.

On another matter, the board's five business members were reported ready to press for a legally binding regulation that would automatically cut off future pay raises in old contracts exceeding 7 per cent a year.

Business member Virgil Day, a General Electric Co. vice president, said the business members would propose such a regulation during meetings this week.

Last month the business members issued a blanket challenge of all deferred raises over 7 per cent, but under this procedure the board would have to order any rollbacks on a case-by-case basis that could swamp the panel with thousands of reviews.

The board's guidelines say

raises in new contracts can't go over 5.5 per cent except in special cases that might warrant raises up to 7 per cent. Day said the rule to be proposed by business members would put the same 7-per-cent lid on deferred raises in contracts already agreed upon.

Last Dec. 21 the board debated far into the night without reaching a decision on contracts covering units of the United Auto Workers and the AFL-CIO

Pay Board Mulls Extent Of Aerospace Rollback

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THE HERALD-PRESS

Editorial Page

W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher
Bert Lindenfeld, Managing Editor

A Major Rebuilding Job At Philadelphia

In marked contrast to the cautious optimism being expressed for the U.S. economy as a whole and for '72 in particular is a drama being enacted in a federal court room at Philadelphia.

John Patrick Fullam, a country lawyer from nearby Bucks county whom LBJ appointed to the bench, may be devoting several of his coming years as a jurist to unscrambling the worst omelette ever concocted in American business history.

He is engaged in what amounts to a full time career in trying to put the largest and most sorely afflicted railroad system, the Penn Central Transportation company, back on track.

The enormity of the task confronting him goes far beyond the conventional bankruptcy matter. Many lawyers representing the multitude of clients have a stake in the proceedings and several financial writers observing the case go so far as to say the federal bankruptcy laws themselves were never written with any such obstacle in mind. Judge Fullam has indicated he may have to declare some portions of the bankruptcy code unconstitutional if the PC situation is ever to be righted in time.

Until an author sufficiently gifted with the ability to sift through the voluminous file now abuilding and the capacity to translate its technical verbiage into readable English comes along, the full story of the debacle, much less its solution, may be years in the publishing.

Some of the outlines, however, are starting to emerge.

In the late '50s the managements of the New York Central and the Pennsylvania opened a discussion on a merging of interests as the best means for two major rail lines surviving the ordeal of providing substantially a parallel service in a declining market. Hearings on the proposal dragged before the Interstate Commerce Commission for ten years before the ICC decreed the marriage could be solemnized on January 1, 1969.

As part of the proceedings, the ICC required the Pennsylvania to buy up the bankrupt New York, New Haven & Hartford.

The Pennsy appealed the ruling through to the Supreme Court which in June, 1970, upheld the ICC decision to the tune of over \$176 million. Economically, it was an adverse opinion to the partnership because some choice real estate in New York City's Park Avenue district completely failed to compensate for the deficit involved in operating the New Haven.

As a sideline to Judge Fullam's problems is a competing judicial entry from the U.S. district court in Connecticut. The latter has ruled that New Haven's creditors have a right to the

A Fragile Substance Is A Stable Currency

The dollar may float or sink, yen, marks and francs may rise or fall, but the "fleurin" remains the world's most stable currency.

While government finance ministers fretted during the latest monetary crisis and President Nixon held summit meetings with world leaders, 40,000 florists in 120 countries calmly continued filling orders with no fears about payment.

As members of the world wide chain, "Fleurop-Interflora," they reckon payments in "fleurin," a nominal money defined as 25 U.S. Cents, two British shillings or one Swiss franc, depending on which of three nonprofit

Park Avenue properties ahead of those two-step affair.

The Penn Central marriage was a holding group, took a bag full of non-railroad assets accumulated through the years by the two operating lines. The latter went together as a railroad under the name of Penn Central Transportation Company. It consists of 40,000 miles of track, half of it owned by leased lines, an estimated \$4 billion in assets, much of it held by a maze of subsidiaries and plastered by 13 overlapping mortgages.

Almost to the day that the Supreme Court delivered its New Haven ruling, Penn Central Transportation's directors asked the White House for a \$250 million emergency loan to pay daily bills.

Congressional critics of the Nixon Administration objected so strenuously that the White House had to back away and a few days later PCT filed for re-organization in bankruptcy.

The loan came through after Judge Fullam was assigned the case and a four-man trusteeship was appointed to assume overall control of the distressed company.

Still under debate is a maneuver to pull the holding firm, Penn Central Company, into the stew. Its assets could materially aid the beleaguered PCT. The rationale for so doing is the claim by many critics, creditors, local governments' being denied tax receipts, and many Congressmen, that Penn Central Company is a refuge for preferred creditors of the total operation.

Judge Fullam has already indicated '72 must be a year of decision and action.

Railroad bankruptcies have been commonplace since the 1930s, but their effect on customers and the communities touched by their lines has been localized.

The Penn Central collapse is more than regional in scope. It has national implications.

In its field it represents the same comparison in a small snowmobile outfit becoming insolvent as against Ford, Chrysler or General Motors going up the flue.

To date the complainants appearing like clockwork before Judge Fullam present the same piecemeal and conflicting demands common to the ordinary bankruptcy procedure.

No one is sketching a big picture of salvation; and the one large canvas Judge Fullam hopes will not have to be painted is nationalization for Penn Central.

If that has to be drawn for PC, the balance of the rail industry would soon be caught up by the same brush.

Shooting For The Bull's-Eye



Bruce Biossat

Labor's Halo Is Slipping

public's attention that labor's recent clamor against imports has largely ignored the consumer.

Indeed, the general public has strong impression these days that labor is long on demands and short on giving something in return.

The dock strikes have been a real irritant this year. Strikes by public service employees in some of the big cities have stirred widespread impatience. Some urban affairs experts decry these stoppages as a major contributor to the cities' financial miseries.

Pinched for jobs, organized labor has abandoned its long-time advocacy of free trade in favor of restrictions on imports into the United States.

Yet labor officials have not

made out a persuasive case.

This record indicates that exports create jobs but that imports do not cut them back

severely.

To the extent that there may

be an improved U. S. trade balance in 1972 and thereafter, with possibly better domestic job prospects, it is expected to be the result of currency realignment — not import restrictions.

Furthermore, the news channels have been alive with believable forecasts that our devaluation of the dollar, though deemed necessary to avoid some kind of trade disaster, will strike hard at U. S. consumers. Hereafter, they will either have to pay more dollars for desired imports or buy more costly but less desired domestic substitutes.

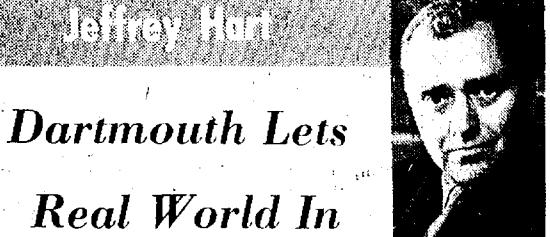
It has not escaped the

Comments one specialist in international economics:

"While these countries are getting more efficient and working harder, some of our people are arguing about how to get more leisure time."

As if all this were not enough, labor's political clout in 1972 could be somewhat diminished.

It still will have plenty of money to pour into the presidential and other campaigns. Its organizational muscle also remains potent. In 1968 its funds and field efforts were heavily responsible for bringing Sen. Hubert Humphrey into a close finish with President Nixon.



Dartmouth Lets Real World In

Now and then a black revolutionary appears to provide some high-octane thrills.

Small wonder, therefore, that having imbibed all these assumptions, community feeling was prepared to be terrorized and thrown completely off balance by even so modest a move as sending a few troops into Cambodia.

This analysis issued in a logical prescription. Since the loony reaction to Cambodia was traceable to the prevailing world view, and that world view derived from the rather narrow range of opinion available on campus, why not open things up a bit, why not let the real world for a change?

These students, therefore, formed the Dartmouth Committee for Intellectual Alternatives. From alumni sources they raised a little capital, and beginning with the new term they are bringing to the campus a series of speakers representing views, and indeed knowledge, not generally available on campus. In January, for example, William Schneider is coming. Formerly of the Hudson Institute, he is an expert on strategic matters, and now a principal aide to Sen. James Buckley. He may lead some students to think the unthinkable: i.e., that national defense is, in fact, a vital matter. Other speakers, all highly qualified, are in the offing; and, in the spring, as a special treat, Bill Buckley will appear.

Dartmouth is liberal in the way that most campuses are liberal. It is nowhere nearly so left-oriented as Columbia or Berkeley. Nevertheless, liberalism is the given. Most people on campus simply assume that no moral or political case exists for the Vietnamese War. Reason and reality are understood to reside in the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. In 1968, a campus address by George Wallace precipitated a riot. The campus newspaper soberly predicted that Nixon's election meant, literally, global catastrophe. Visiting speakers represent, for the most part, a spectrum of opinion stretching all the way from McGovern to McCloskey.

Welfare Funds Misspent--U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government estimates it may be misspending \$500 million a year on welfare, due to "honest mistakes" by over-worked and inefficient state and local welfare agencies.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare disclosed at a news conference Monday that a preliminary survey last April indicated about 5 per cent of the nation's welfare families were ineligible for payments, and even more were paid too much or not enough.

BERRY'S WORLD



"Would you believe I'm collecting for some charitable fund?"

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A number of North American animals hibernate during the cold winter months, such as the jumping mouse, badger, bat, woodchuck, chipmunk, bear, and some ground squirrels. Others, like the raccoon, are sitful sleepers and may become aroused on warm days in winter.

This Russia-India treaty provides not merely for consultations if "either party . . . (is) subjected to attack or threat thereof" but for "appropriate effective measures (i.e. war) to insure the peace and security" of both nations. The United States have very

THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1972

Twin City
News

BH Hires Firm To Seek Developer



WARMLY WELCOMED: William S. White of Niles (center) is welcomed Monday as a new judge of Berrien circuit court by fellow Berrien Circuit Judges Chester J. Byrns (left) and Julian E. Hughes. Occasion was luncheon, sponsored by Berrien Bar association and attended by some 100 persons at Holiday Inn, Benton township. In humorous vein, it was pointed out that all

three judges are University of Michigan law school grads and all are 49 years old. Judge Hughes made one correction, saying that Monday was his 50th birthday. Judge White was appointed to bench to replace Karl F. Zick who died Nov. 15. Judge White's appointment is through 1972. An election will be held in November for 1973-74 balance of Judge Zick's term. (Staff photo)

New Ice Rink In Eaton Park Will Be Free To All Skaters

St. Joseph township is just waiting for cold weather to flood a just completed ice rink at Eaton park which will be free to all skaters.

Anthony LaMantia, St. Joseph township trustee on the

**Coloma Twp.
Board Meets
Tonight At 8**

COLOMA — Coloma Township Supervisor Roger Carter announced that due to the holiday, the regular monthly meeting of the Coloma Township board would be held tonight at 8 p.m. at the township hall. It had been scheduled for last night originally.

LaMantia said the com-

park board, last night reported to the board on the rink status. He said inquiries by township residents on the decision by the City of St. Joseph to levy a charge on outsiders to use the Whittlesey rink prompted the township to build its own rink. LaMantia said no charges would be made to anyone to skated skate at Eaton park, located on Lincoln avenue at I-94.

Arthur Benford, chairman of the township park board, said a plastic base on a rink 120 by 140 feet has been laid and a foot high earth dam erected to hold the water. As soon as the weather gets cold enough to freeze water the rink will be flooded. Another rink is planned at Fairplain West school.

LaMantia said the com-

mittee is already inquiring on putting in lights and establishing a warming house. At first skating will be during daylight hours. The rink will not be supervised.

The township board took another step down the road to a sanitary sewer system by passing resolutions authorizing the supervisor to set up two special assessment districts — one on each side of the St. Joseph river. The resolutions approved last night call for total assessment of \$2,024,000 in Fairplain and \$3,997,100 west of the river. The \$6,021,100 special assessment total is less than the \$7,850,000 estimate cost of the system but the difference comes in hook-up charges, government grants and other initial charges.

There will be public hearing, however, before the assessments are levied.

The township board authorized its negotiating committee, Supervisor Orval Benson, Clerk Bill Payne Smith and lay member George Rhinehardt, to hold talks on water system costs with Lincoln township. The two members of the Lake Michigan Shoreline Water and Sewage Authority have been discussing a split in water system costs informally. No specific meeting dates have been set but Benson said he expects Lincoln township will be ready for further talks shortly.

Fire Chief Rudy Reimer of station No. 2 was authorized to go to Tipton, Ind. next week to take possession of a new \$25,000 fire engine and return it to the township.

The township board ap-

proved low bid of Ace Plumbing, St. Joseph, to hook up station No. 2 and the township hall to the new suburban water system at a cost of \$695.

The city of St. Joseph, often pictured as a monster trying to devour the township, does have its good side. Township Attorney John Crow said the

firm took over provision of the services several years ago after area funeral directors went out of the ambulance business because of new federal regulations.

The firm has asked Hagar for a \$1,750 subsidy, based on a per capita formula, as its share of \$34,000 being sought.

Since the township's deferral of the request, the firm has said it would not provide service.

Service for the township is currently provided by an ambulance in Lake Michigan Beach and the Coloma emergency vehicle.

The other new course titles are as follows:

Negotiating Techniques, Cases in Union-Management

Relations, Introduction to Anthropology, Law for Industrial Management Personnel, Communications Techniques, Nature of the English Language, Literary Interpretation, Contemporary Novel, Introduction to Religious Thought, Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Logic, Jewelry, Textiles, Interpersonal Relations Laboratory, Adult Reading, Physical Science Tutorial Laboratory, Basic Electrical Fundamentals for Numerical Control I and II, Industrial Design, Cooperative Metallurgical Practice, Metallography, Introduction to Numerical Control, Introduction to Theater, Machine Shop Practices, Small Engine Repair Laboratory.

Also among the new courses are a series of music

courses: Orchestra, Vocal Ensemble, String Ensemble,

Introduction to Music Theory, Music Theory I through IV, Music History II, Voice, Piano, Vocal and Instrumental Accompanying, Applied Brass, Applied Woodwinds, Applied Percussion, Applied Strings.

Registration for the second semester at Lake Michigan college opened today and will continue tonight and Wednesday.

College officials said 45 courses being offered for the

first time will give full-time and part-time students the

longest list of courses to select from in the school's

history.

Full-time students are to register from 9 to 11 a.m.

and 2 to 4 p.m. today and Wednesday. Evening school

registration for part-time students is scheduled from 6:30

to 8:30 p.m. today and Wednesday.

A total of 435 courses will be offered in the day and

evening schools during the second semester. Classes

start next Monday.

The new courses range from pilot ground school and

skiing to Anthropology and American Minority Litera-

ture.

The other new course titles are as follows:

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THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1972

Section
Two

Last Bells Toll For Slain Troopers

Sobbing Widow Gets Flag

Gary Rampy Returns Home For Albion Rites

By STEVE McQUOWN
Paw Paw Bureau

ALBION — Funeral services for State Police Trooper Gary Rampy, one of two officers slain early Friday near Union Pier, were held here Monday in the community where he had been born 27 years ago.

An estimated 300 to 500 persons attended. Burial took place in the Riverside cemetery.

Rev. Fred B. Cunningham of Albion's First Presbyterian church praised Rampy as one of many men who have died in the service for his country and the public.

"We can be grateful for those who dedicate their lives to protection against the misuse and destruction of life," the minister told a crowd that overflowed seating capacity of the Heirigel-Todd funeral chapel.

"Through Gary's death, may we and others know life to be safer."

Later, an estimated 200 to 300 police officers — representing the state police, city police departments and other law enforcement agencies within the state and from Indiana stand in ranks at attention as Rampy's body was carried from the chapel.

Then an escort of perhaps 60 police cars — with their red and blue flashing lights turned on in a demonstration of sympathy and mourning led the funeral procession to the cemetery just outside of Albion where brief graveside services were held.

And finally, with the services completed, the blue flag of the state that had been draped across the coffin, was folded and presented to Rampy's wife Tanya who clutched it to her face and began sobbing.

Pallbearers were Ronald Berjeski, Troopers Robert Den Houten, David De Vries, Steven De Vries, Larry Harju and Sgt. Richard Kalenda.

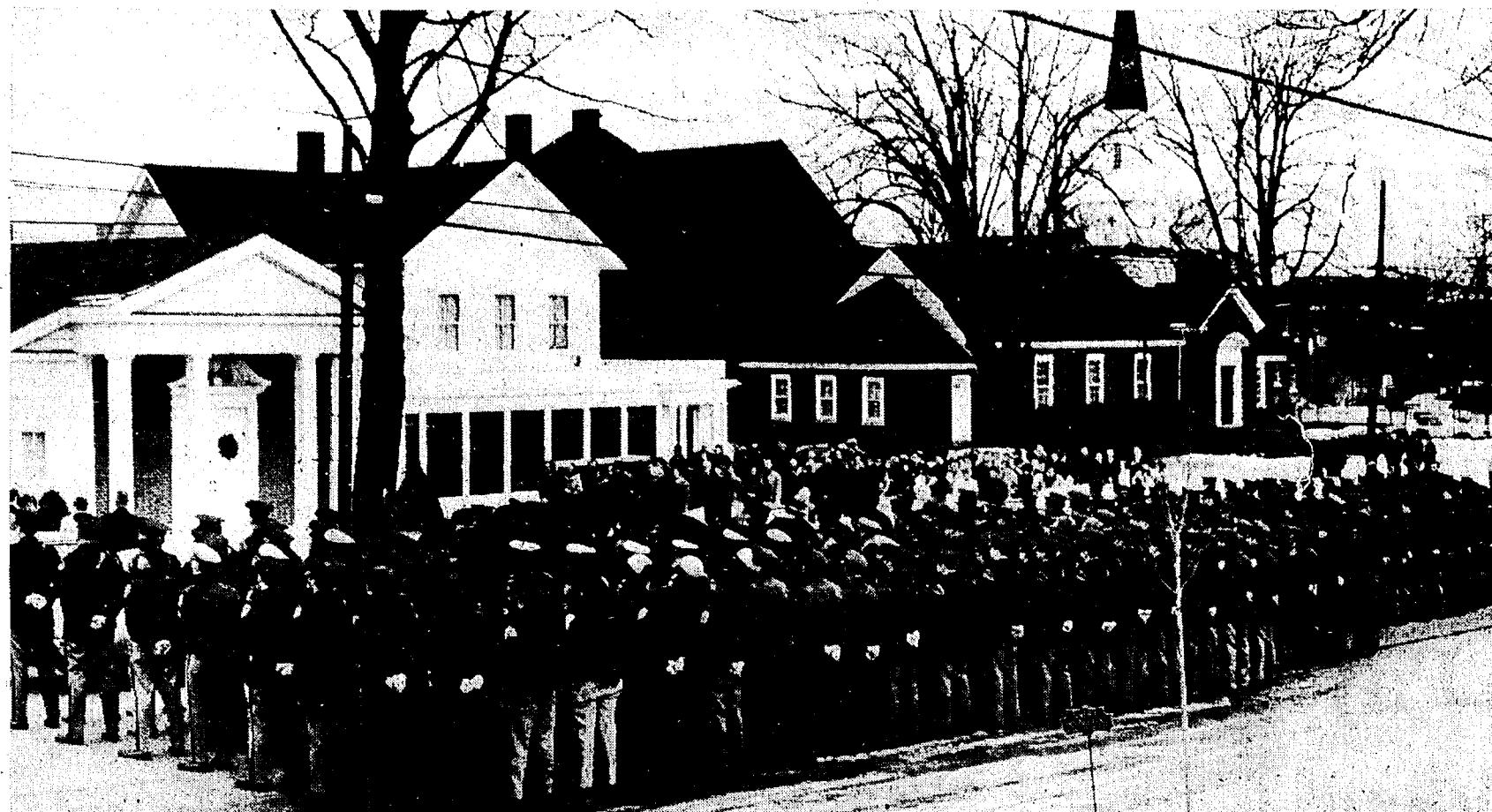
State police Director Col. John Plants attended the Rampy services and then flew by helicopter to Muskegon to attend services for the other trooper slain in the incident, Charles Stark.

Has Eighth Homicide

DETROIT (AP) — Andy Robinson, 26, became Detroit's eighth homicide of the new year late Monday afternoon when an armed bandit killed him with a shotgun while robbing the Able Bar on the city's East Side.

Detroit police say witnesses described the bandit as being a short husky man in his late 30s dressed in a long shabby, black overcoat.

The robbery netted the bandit \$35.



MUTE TRIBUTE: Officers from state police posts, city police departments and other law enforcement agencies within the state and from Indiana stand in

mute tribute to slain officer Gary Rampy at funeral services yesterday in Albion. Rampy was one of two officers shot to death early Friday after they

had stopped a car at Union Pier for what was believed a routine traffic check. (Staff photo by Steve McQuown)



FINAL SALUTE: State police officers from across state give final salute as coffin of Trooper Charles Stark Jr., is carried toward his grave in Muskegon yesterday. Stark was one of two officers gunned

down at Union Pier early Friday. The trooper's father, the Rev. Charles Stark Sr., in light colored coat, conducted ceremony. (Tom Renner photo)

Questions Raised In Cass County Audit

CASSOPOLIS — An audit of Cass county finances by Michigan Treasurer Allison Green has called into question payments to four county commissioners totaling \$5,820.

All but \$80 of the payments in question were made to Commissioner Owen D. Gordon (Mason township) for work he undertook for the county health department during 1969 and 1970. Payment was approved by the board of commissioners.

The remaining \$80 was paid

to three commissioners for meetings they attended in 1970.

The matter has been called to the commission's attention by a letter from the Bureau of Local Government Services within the state treasurer's office and grew out of an audit by the state of 1970 county accounts.

The letter questions per diem payments of \$2,180 in 1969 and \$3,500 in 1970, when Gordon was chairman of the county board of commissioners. The payments were

made to Gordon in his capacity as acting director of the county health department, member of the health department board and member of the commission's health committee.

Gordon continues as acting health director although he has not been paid in that capacity since 1970. He was replaced as commission chairman in 1971 by Charles Sarabyn of Dowagiac.

The treasurer's letter con-

cludes that \$5,740 paid Gordon for his various health department positions really amount to payment as acting director of the department because of duplication of responsibilities. The letter cites a Feb. 24, 1970, opinion of Attorney General Frank Kelley, which holds that a county commissioner may serve as acting director of the health department but not both.

The letter further notes that "all the per diem payments

(to Gordon) for 1970 were paid several months after the date of this opinion."

The payments were approved by commissioners even though Kelley's opinion was read to them by Prosecuting Attorney Herman Soltz.

According to the letter, the state audit also revealed four instances in which commissioners were paid for attending more than one meeting in a single day during 1970. It says the commissioners were paid the full per

diem rate for a regular board meeting and half that amount for committee meetings on the same dates, all contrary to state law.

The payments in question are \$40 to Commissioner William H. Stevens (Dowagiac), and \$20 each to Commissioner Johnnie Rodebush (Howard township) and Paul M. Kaminsky, no longer a commissioner.

The matter is expected to be discussed at the next commission meeting on Jan. 11.

BRIDGMAN — Trustees of the Lake township board, meeting in regular session last night, paid bills of approximately \$1,600. No other action was taken.

Delayed Council Meeting Tonight

DOWAGIAC — A meeting of the Dowagiac city council normally scheduled for last (Monday) night will be held tonight instead, because of the New Year's holiday.

Father Eulogizes His Son

Rites Held For Charles Stark At Muskegon

By TOM RENNER
South Haven Correspondent
MUSKEGON — A grieving father eulogized his slain state trooper son Monday during an emotion-filled funeral service attended by more than 300 law enforcement officers from throughout Michigan and Indiana.

The body of 32-year-old Charles Stark, Jr., was laid to rest in a quiet cemetery in Muskegon where he led an active life as a youth. Earlier in the day similar funeral services were held in Albion for Trooper Gary Rampy.

The troopers were gunned down early Friday near Union Pier after they had stopped a car for what was believed to be a routine traffic violation.

"Out of my son's death has come the realization that God gave his Son with no thought of revenge or of equating," said the Rev. Charles Stark, father of the slain trooper and pastor of the Wolf Lake Baptist Church in Muskegon.

"There is no human way to understand a thing like this," said Rev. Stark. "It is only through a living Christ that we can add a dimension to life."

Rev. Stark offered some poignant remarks on a visit he made to the murder site: "When I looked at the blood of my son on the driveway my mind went out 2,000 years to the blood of another Son."

The Rev. Stark offered "thanks from a dad's heart" to the state police officers who "gave my son the only life he wanted."

"I now realize that there is a special fellowship, one of life or death, between you police officers," he added.

Trooper Stark was well aware of the hazards of his job according to his father. There's no such thing as a routine stop in the state police," he once told his father.

"He once joked that they (state police) have a good retirement program 'If I live long enough to collect it,'" Rev. Stark added.

The former first chair trumpeter in the Muskegon high school band began his service with the state police in June, 1964. After high school he had planned to become a journeyman bricklayer but, according to his father, he didn't feel the building trades met his needs."

The new school will be constructed by the Geim and Whitaker Construction company of Kalamazoo, which submitted the low bid of \$1,294,160.

Additional bids for \$204,000 of special equipment, such as bleachers and laboratory equipment, have also been awarded.

Lake Township Board Pays \$1,600 In Bills

BRIDGMAN — Trustees of the Lake township board, meeting in regular session last night, paid bills of approximately \$1,600. No other action was taken.

Delayed Council Meeting Tonight

DOWAGIAC — A meeting of the Dowagiac city council normally scheduled for last (Monday) night will be held tonight instead, because of the New Year's holiday.

Troopers from the New Buffalo post served as an honor guard. The Rev. Freeman Whetstone officiated at the service.

A mile-long procession of police cars escorted the body of trooper Stark to the Oakwood Cemetery. More than 600 persons attended the service including officers from most Berrien county police departments.

A State of Michigan flag which had draped the casket was presented to the victim's widow.